GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1952
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2002
CULTIVATION OF TEA
DALPAT SINGH PARASTE

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the area under tea cultivation in each State as on June 30, 2002;

(b) whether Tea Board is pushing for an increase in production of Darjeeling tea as means for reducing costs;

(c) if so, whether any survey has been conducted to bring more land into cultivation to increase tea production;

(d) if so, the details of the study alongwith its recommendations; and

(e) the details regarding the estates surveyed and the total land available for cultivable purposes?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) : Information on the area under tea cultivation in each state as on 30th June, 2002 is not available. However, estimated State-wise area under tea cultivation as on 31.12.2000 is as follows :-

States	Area under tea (in Hectares)
Assam	267392
West Bengal	109690
Tripura	6623
Arunachal Pradesh	2176
Manipur	907
Sikkim	296
Nagaland	1214
Meghalaya	351
Mizoram	391
Uttar Pradesh	1068
Himachal Pradesh	2325
Bihar	1350
Orissa	214
Tamil Nadu	74331
Kerala	36762
Karnataka	2106
Total	507196

(b) :Tea Board has stressed the need for improvement in productivity of tea in Darjeeling with quality improvement through long term development measures and through improved manufacturing techniques.

(c) to (e) : Yes Sir. A Techno Economic Survey of Darjeeling Tea Industry was undertaken by the Tea Board during 1998-99 to look into the various problems of Darjeeling tea industry based on an on-the-spot study of suitably selected sample gardens. The main problems identified were over-aged bushes, low productivity, declining profitability, lack of uprooting and replanting, top soil erosion, lack of adequate finance etc. The recommendations made in the Survey include extension planting & replanting, suitable infilling programmes, uprooting and replanting programme in low yielding estates, rejuvenation and consolidation with inter -row planting,

judicious application of herbicides, adoption of latest R&D in field & cultural practices for qualitative upgradation and growth of production, upgradation of processing and packaging machinery, measures to enhance labour productivity, greater emphasis on essential field operations specially in small tea estates and improvement of basic infrastructural facilities. It has also recommended that generic promotion of Darjeeling tea in India should be initiated to increase domestic consumption of such teas. A sample of 46 tea estates representing 54% of the total number of tea estates were chosen for the purpose of the Survey. The sample was done by statistical method with proportional representation of various holding sizes and status of ownership. The Survey revealed that on an average, 49% of the total grant area was available for cultivation.